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REPORT

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Prisoners of War in the USSR

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1. By the end of the war, the number of Hungarian PWs in the USSR amounted to about a half million. Since then, more than one hundred thousand have been released, but not the able-bodied ones. The official number of Hungarians detained in the USSR is estimated at 260,000. Above all, they refused to release the good technical workers. They tried hard to persuade them to stay on the basis of "voluntary status". The number of such Hungarian PWs, who, for the present, wander about somewhere, unseized(?) [redacted] and of whom nothing more at all is known, whether or

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[redacted]  
(sic)  
underground airfield which is rapidly being built along the Leningrad-Moscow RR line. On the Gulf of Bothnia and the Gulf of Finland, as well as on the Karelian border, prisoners make reinforced concrete for the building of new fortifications.

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The number of prisoners altogether amounts to about ten thousand. There are

also many captured women in the camp who must work in the coal mines. The male inhabitants of the camp were for the most part employed in the work of the new construction of the Dniepropetrovsk hydraulic power plant.

4- East of Tbilisi, in the region of Rustavi, there is the PW Camp (city) No. L-181.

In this settlement 16,000 PWs of various nationalities live. Until September 1946, the prisoners there were decimated by a systematic scheme of annihilation,

so-called natural selection. No one was slain there, nor were there any gas-

chambers; nevertheless, the prisoners got nothing at all outside of tasteless

soup. Typhus and dropsy released [ ] the rest. They had no underwear 50X1-HUM

covers  
(linen) and there were only 400 ~~beds~~ for 2600 people.

5- The prisoners of Rustavi populated six camps on the banks of the Kura River.

Only a small part of them were Rumanian and Hungarian; most were German and

Austrian. <sup>(16,000)</sup> All were laborers of the Transcaucasian Metal <sup>Surgical Combine</sup> Kombinat and they also worked in the construction of armament plants.

6- There <sup>was</sup> no time to bury the dead prisoners, and coffins <sup>could not</sup> ~~cannot~~ be procured either.

The corpses were thrown in the nearby ravines, where the jackals consumed the human remains. In the camp, there, numbered 181/3 from the capitulation until September

1945 there were the following PWs: 6,800 PWs; 3,300 of them died, 3,000 fell into total apathy, and 700 of them died later. Those exiled here had to go barefoot summer and winter, live in tents, and sleep without straw beds or covers.

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(s.c.)

7. In a quarry of Kvitolb, which bears the number 512/2 and lies 150 km north of Tbilisi, 72 German colonels worked after the capitulation, ~~of whom~~ 48 of whom perished shortly.

8. In Stupino (?), because of the frailty of the men, only 40-50 out of 872 persons could go to ~~work~~ out of doors. After 1939, captured Poles were held in this camp.

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Near the camp [ ] is the gigantic cemetery

in which 89,000 persons sleep the sleep of eternity.

*Katyn massacre?*

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[ ] the number of prisoners in these camps amounts to an average of 1000-3000 men. In the camps east of the Urals, the Bolsheviks keep at least 10 million men (persons), among them more than ten thousand women, and use them for forced labor.

9. In September 1945, there were interned in Fosen 2400 persons, partisans of the Mikolaycziks Party, and were brought to the mentioned Stupino. 773 of them died during the transport.

10. In the early part of 1946, the treatment was somewhat more charitable.

Nevertheless, the prisoners still received no medicine. In the winter of 1946 the search began for atomic experts and first class armament technicians.

The prisoners had to fill out a long questionnaire covering 45 topics, and those whose answers disclosed technical ability were immediately taken from the camp.

11. The prisoners were fed with propaganda. The most lively "reconnaissance work" was aimed against the British. England was represented as insignificant from a military standpoint. If it should come to a conflict, they emphasized, the Soviet tanks would be in Calais in a day. The propaganda for the French is

candidly damaging. As military opponents they were not even taken into consideration,

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incapacity to work. Only high fever or open mouth can keep a man from work.

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13. Those of the German PWs who do not immediately join the different "Voluntary" actions (?) must count on retaliatory measures. <sup>Thus</sup> ~~Therefore~~, for example at the time of the outbreak of the Berlin crisis, some in the camp refrained from signing a "welcome" declaration to support the SED. A considerable part of their food ration was taken away from those who refused to sign the declaration.
14. Those prisoners, who are appointed for release, must take part in a six weeks fattening-up treatment ~~and~~ and get for the ~~new~~ departure new, but poor quality clothing, and are ~~xxx~~ often transported home in trains, in which there are even beds. Nevertheless, on the way, those returning home were afraid for the future that at home famine would prevail as a result of Anglo-American oppression.
15. In the release-camp St. Valentin near Berlin, the MVD Commission divided the Soviet repatriates into groups, each according to nationality. The men were separated from their families and transported within the USSR in the quickest possible way. The women and children were still kept back for some time. The Soviet repatriates who had married foreigners, can (could) count on five years of forced labor after their return home.

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